

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4743

1. Name

Historic 701 - 723 South Bethel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 701 - 723 South Bethel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
 date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 700 block of S. Bethel St. is comprised of three different groups of two-story houses built between the 1790s and the early 1900s. The block contains a pair of very early two-bay wide, 2 ½ story, one-room deep brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows.

703 – 707 S. Bethel St. are two-story, early Italianate-style houses, only one of which (707) retains its original cornice. They are 13' and 13'6" wide and occupy lots 65' deep. 703 had its façade remodeled in the 1920s or 1930s, with new decorative brick work and a new brick cornice. 705 has been covered with formstone and no longer has its original cornice. Each two-room deep house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the service entrance to the backyard is through the arched sallyport located in the center of each pair (709 no longer exists). The houses are constructed in running bond, and were always painted. There is a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. The shed roof is capped by a simple wooden cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding supported by a row of scroll-sawn modillions set against a plain, deep frieze area. Door and window openings have no lintels, and brick and wood sills. No original 2/2 sash remain, and all windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and a variety of replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by a single brick or concrete step.

713 – 715 S. Bethel St. is a pair of two-bay wide, 2 ½ story brick houses with gable roofs and a single dormer window apiece that represent the only surviving pair of early nineteenth century houses built along the east side of the 700 block of South Bethel Street. The pair is notable for its one-room-deep floor plan and steeply-pitched gable roof—a plan seen on some of the earliest Federal-period houses in the area. The dormer windows have a simple broken pediment.

The houses are two-and-a half stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 67'7" deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the service entrance to the backyard is through the arched sallyport located in the center of the pair. The houses are constructed in common bond, with the header course set every five rows, and were always painted. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. There is a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition.

Continuation sheet

The first floor door and window openings of 713 are surmounted by splayed brick lintels, whereas those of 715 are segmental arches composed of a double row of headers, probably a later addition. The second story windows have no lintels. The sills are wood. All of the window openings are filled with 6/6 sash. Both houses have modern six panel doors surmounted by a single light transom. The houses have no basements, the entrances being reached directly from the sidewalk. An arched alleyway runs between the two houses.

The houses are only one room deep, the front room being entered directly from the front door. The stairs are located at the rear of the main room and ascend in a tightly winding curve to the second floor. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen. With an extra bedroom above. The dormer story has a single large room beneath the high rafters.

723 - 725 S. Bethel St. are a pair of two-story late Italianate-style houses with shed roofs and sheet metal bracketed cornices. They were built after 1892 when Baltimore outlawed the further use of wooden cornices, but their design closely imitates the forms used in the earlier Italianate-style wooden cornices. The houses are 15' wide and occupy lots 64'9" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The chimney is located at the rear corner of the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the service entrance to the backyard is through the arched sallyports located within each house unit. The houses are constructed in running bond, which was always painted. The shed roofs have sheet metal bracketed cornices consisting of a crown molding supported by three long, horizontally-grooved brackets that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The end brackets have arched caps, decorated with rosettes, that rise slightly above the roofline. Both houses also have rectangular sheet metal panels that decorated the brick frieze area created by the long brackets and the lower molding strip.

Second floor window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills, but both first floors have been completely remodeled. That at 723 is now slightly set back with a central multi-light door set between two full-length multi-light sash, the whole being surmounted by multi-light transoms set beneath a wide sheet metal crown molding. At 725 the first floor, which had once been remodeled as a garage, now has a recessed entryway set beyond an angled wall of new paneling. Windows at 723 have new 6/6 sash, those at 725 have 1/1 replacement sash. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by a single brick step.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1795; c. 1875; c. 1895

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The east side of the 700 block of S. Bethel St. is extremely significant for containing a pair of very early one-room-deep, two-and-a-half story houses built in the 1790s, when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Bethel Street was known as Apple Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

Other houses are significant as representing the types of infill housing built on this alley block to replace earlier wooden structures. These Italianate-style houses are typical of those built after the Civil War to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. House such as these have been remodeled over the years and were always occupied by stable, working class families.

The houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only two blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

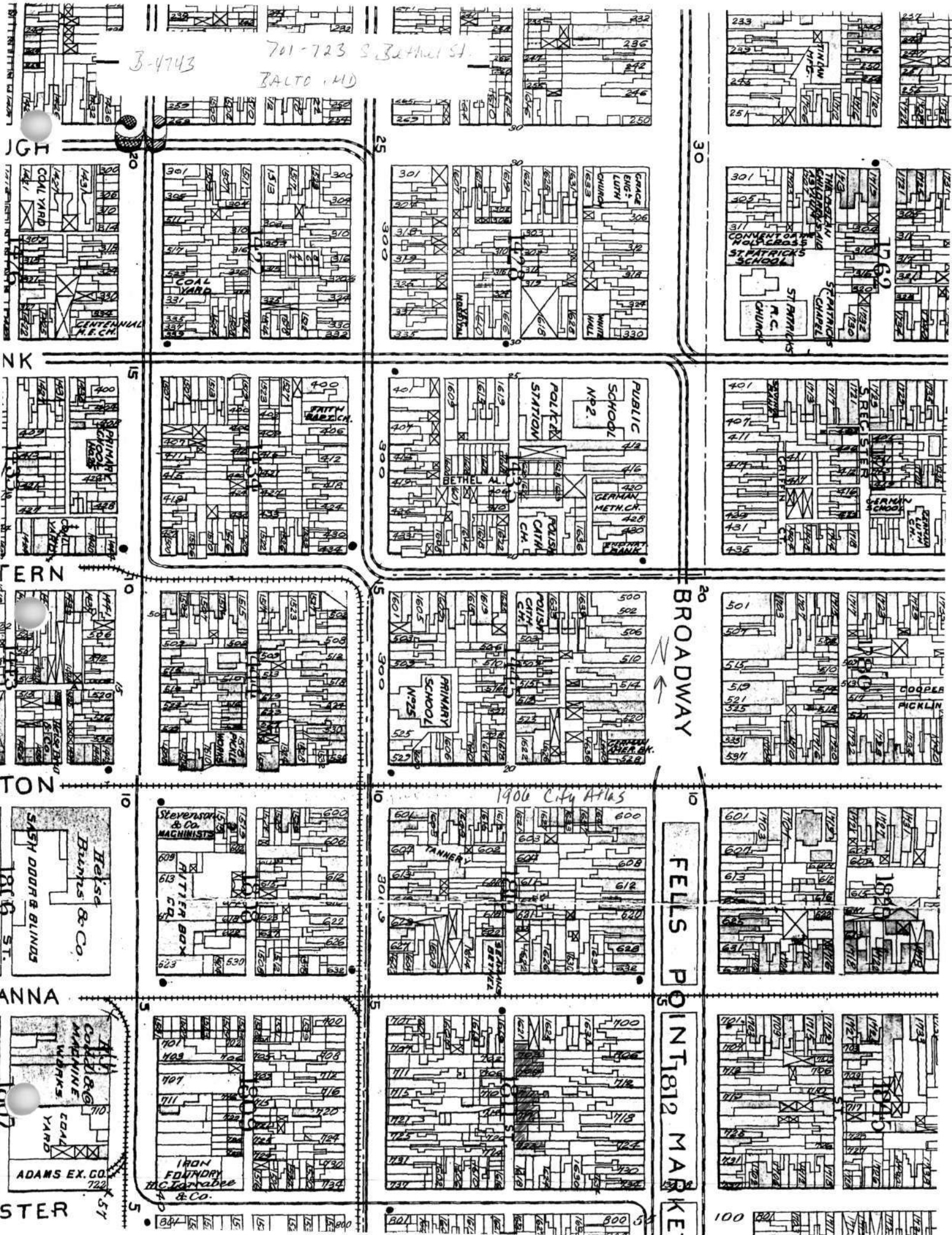
100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

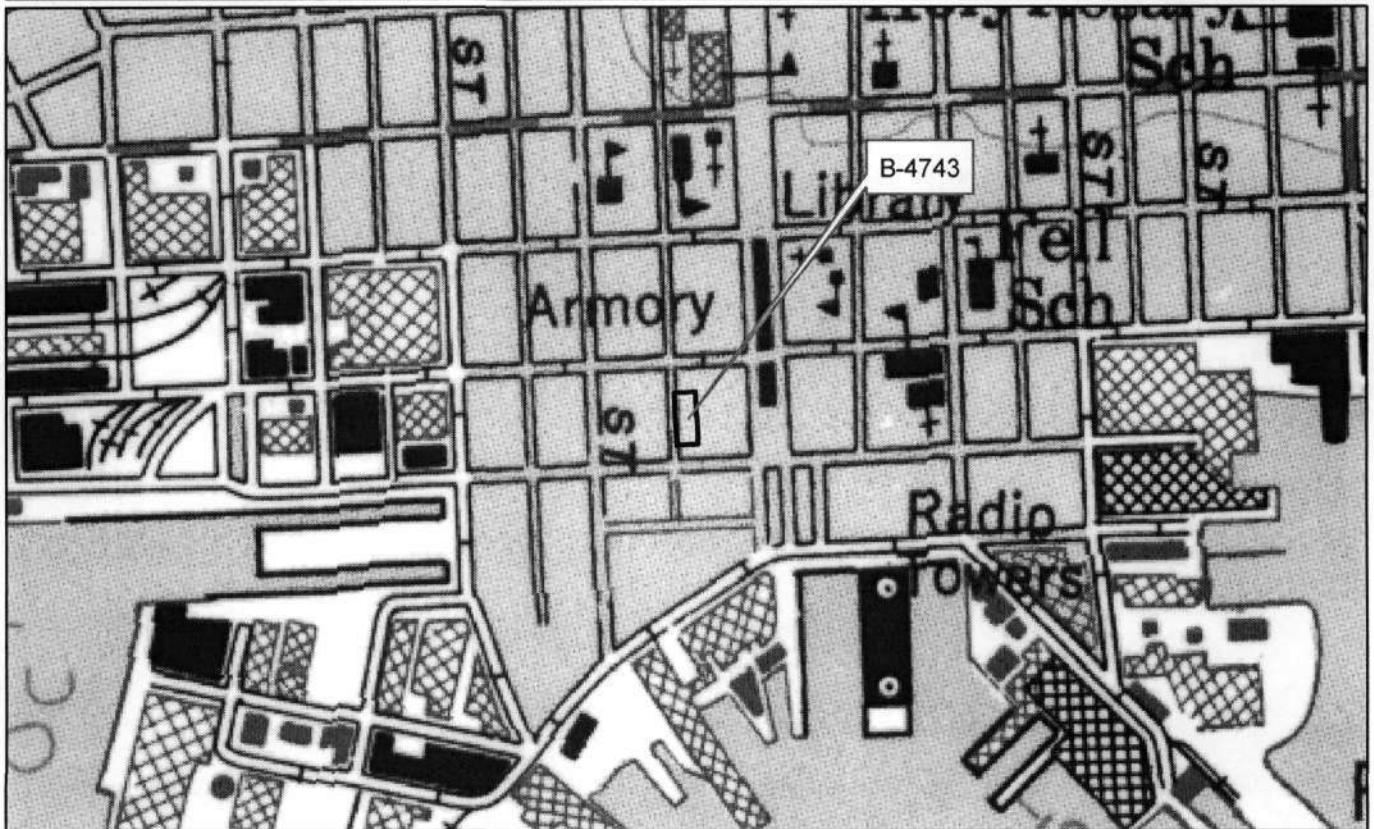
3-4743

701-723 S. BALTIMORE ST.

BALTO. MD



B-4743
701-723 S. Bethel Street
Block 1811 Lots 068-077
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





701-723 S. Bethel

B-4743

701-723 S. Bethel St.

BALTO. MD.

C. Belfrage

11/97

140

1070400 021 2 82

MD 5470

1/6



703 S. Bethel

B-4743

703 S. Bethel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

2/6

1065400 0211 14 14 15



707 S. Bethel

B-4743

707 S. Bethel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

3/6

1053480 12/11 2009

180



713-715 S. Bethel

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701-723 S. Bethel St.

[713-715]

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

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MD SADD

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2025 11 11 15:00 00440000

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725-2

S. Bethel

B-4743

701-723 S. Bethel St

[723-725]

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

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723 S. Bethel

B-4743

723 S. Bethel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

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100